Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINAI 00641 141444Z
ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-13 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /063 W
----------141531Z 024192 /50
R 141415Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION SINAI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2243

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 0641

FOR SSM - FOR KONTOS FROM THORNE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: CBS/TV VISIT

1. CBS-TV TEAM LED BY TOM FENTON AND JOEL BERNSTEIN VISITED SFM THIS DATE. SOME FILM CLIPS WERE MADE OF THE CAMP AND GIDDI EAST WATCH STATION AND I GAVE THEM A SHORT INTERVIEW. AMONG ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING OTHER MISSIONS SIMILAR TO THE SFM ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND LEBANON BORDER AND A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS OF MARCH 9.

2. DURING MY RECENT TRIP TO TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM, THE PRE-SIDENT'S STATEMENTS WERE THE TOPIC OF GENERAL CONVERSATION AND THERE IS MUCH SPECULATION THAT THE STATEMENT INDICATES THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO ESTABLISH SUCH MISSIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS DURING THE TRIP AND DURING TODAY'S INTERVIEW, I TOOK CARE TO POINT OUT THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR SFM'S SUCCESS SO FAR HAS BEEN ITS GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION AND THAT IT IS LOCATED IN AN UNPOPULATED AREA. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SIMILAR MISSIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED ELSEWHERE, I STATED THAT WE CAN DO ANYTHING BUT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
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WOULD EXIST IN EACH CASE AND THAT THE OTHER POSSIBILITIES DO NOT EVEN INCLUDE A BUFFER ZONE SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN THE SINAI. WHEN ASKED IF THE SUCCESS OF THE SFM COULD BE CONSIDERED A GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS FOR SIMILAR MISSIONS USED ELSEWHERE, I SAID NO. I HAVE BEEN AVOIDING THIS TOPIC FOR MONTHS AND HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WILL REFER ALL FURTHER QUESTIONS ON IT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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4. PRESS GUIDANCE IN STATE 053329 WAS SHOWN ME AFTER THE CBS TEAM LEFT, AN UNFORTUNATE OVERSIGHT.

5. FENTON INDICATES THAT THIS SFM COVERAGE WILL BE USED ON THE CRONKITE SHOW IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

THORNE

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
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**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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